ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

NOV-DEC 1954

Tribute to Janet in Prison

From Thunder

WEDNESDAY, 20th October was the birthday of Janet Jagan, Secretary of our Party. This year Janet was not at home with her family, her friends and comrades.

Indeed, the day was spent in the Georgetown Jail.

Janet is in Prison today because Magistrate Burch Smith found her quilty of holding an illegal meeting and sentenced her to three months.

Our Secretary argued that she was not guilty and rather than pay a fine, she elected to go to prison.

Last week Janet's son, Joe, celebrated his fifth birthday. A small party was given for Joe and even though his little friends had an enjoyable time, it was obvious to all adults that someone was missing.

Joe's mother was in jail. But for Joe even though he is only five years, he has got accustomed to having one of his parents away from home.

Unfortunately he is not old enough to realise that his parents are two people who are loved by the entire

continued on page 5

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We share with you

ON this second anniversary of "Caribbean News", the editorial staff joins readers and sellers in recording a publishing achievement over the past two years which has only been possible through the continued support of its readers.

This is YOUR paper, designed to bring you into contact with the struggle against the colour bar, for a better life and freedom for the West Indies.

Foremost mention must be made of those who, like Miss Margaret Rickards from Jamaica (photo below), sell "Caribbean News" at Tube Stations, on the street and in your homes, without whose constant energy your paper could not exist.

Picture on left shows some previous issues of "Caribbean News".

7,000 West Indians in eight months

LIKE dragon seed the harvest is in abundance, and the policy of colonial neglect and industrial deprivation continues to drive thousands from home in search of jobs, health and education.

On October 5th the Colonial Office through the Welfare Liaison Officer, Mr. J. de Souza, held an informal tea party to bring together representatives of West Indian organisations in London, as a pool of information from which to extract ideas for a solution.

Most important of all there appears to have been an underlying motive directed at the enactment of legislation to prevent unchecked emigration to Britain. This has been supported by the reported comments of Sir Hugh Foot, Governor of Jamaica, recently in Washington on return from Britain. He is reported to have said that in view of the "restriction" on white English people entering the West Indies, it was his opinion that some restriction on West Indians coming to Britain could be considered "reasonable".

Back in London at Sanctuary Buildings (Colonial Office), to the credit of progress, there was one unanimous voice against this Hitlerian legislation. The only suggestion of legislation, also unanimous, was that there should be a law enacted in the British Constitution, making racial discrimination a crime.

Again proposals were put forward for the calling of an All-London Conference with Borough and County Council representatives, delegates from the Trades Councils and Trade Unions, along with West Indian representatives, to thrash out a democratic policy and ensure for all concerned the Government dictum that there shall be no discrimination, and a final chapter written on that hideous offence — the colour bar.

WINS OPERATIC CONTEST

Mr. Sookoor Mohamed, West Indian tenor, was chosen winner in the operatic section of the Cavalcade of Song and Dance at the Albert Hall on Sunday, 10th October, 1954. This is the second time that a West Indian has emerged winner in this international festival. This year there were two West Indians among the five finalists.

Vic Richardson's troupe of West Indian dancers performed splendidly to an appreciative audience.

★ EDITORIAL ★

Second Birthday

"CARIBBEAN NEWS" has this month completed two years of service in the cause of the West Indian people who desire and are struggling to make a better West Indies for themselves and posterity.

Since its first publication there has always been an uphill struggle. It has been hard going but those responsible for production and sales have always faced it with determination.

It is a newspaper reporting on people's organisations at work in the various places of the British Caribbean. The powerful press gang of the local papers are devoted to the service of the monopolists and their adherents. They are always ready to explain how badly off the poor companies are when forced to make fair concessions.

We are always ready to explain the conditions that force the working people to demand the right to live decently. Also, we encourage them to unite and go forward, by reporting the achievements of workers' and peasants' organisations in other parts of the world.

Last anniversary's issue was in time to report the case of British Guiana when the "savage" blow was cowardly struck against the People's Progressive Party democratically elected government. "Caribbean News" is proud of the part it played in making available to West Indians Dr. Jagan's and Mr. Burnham's side of the story.

"Caribbean News" also plays an important role in bringing to the notice of the English public the sufferings of the West Indian people and their efforts to alleviate them. As for the thousands of West Indians who have to be in England because of economic necessity, this is their chance of acquainting themselves with facts of other parts of the West Indies, about which that they could not previously have had.

The production of "Caribbean News" is not elaborate. Ordinary men and women who are convinced of its value collect and collate the news. When this is done and it is printed, they man several points on the street and elsewhere and sell the paper. Subsequent issues depend on the previous sales. "Caribbean News" appeals to West Indians and friends for their support. Send us any news you think of value. Ensure receiving your copy by the subscription method which is free. Above all, help to sell the paper.

The staff of "Caribbean News" extend their gratitude to all who have helped to keep the paper going and look forward to continued and increased support to carry on the work.

By Comparison

TO ANY who tend to criticise the P.P.P. Government in British Guiana for acting rashly during the latter days of its existence, an interesting lesson will be found in the following two incidents:-

On the 24th September, towards the ending of the month during which the sugar workers had demonstrated their support for the G.I.W.U., Mr. Ashton Chase, Labour Minister, introduced the Labour Relations Bill. To avoid hardship to the workers due to unnecessary delay, he moved the suspension of Standing Orders, after the Bill had run five of the seven days required by statute.

The Speaker refused his request.

By the second week of October the Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, had suspended all the Ministers. On the 9th October the Constitution was suspended. Before a week had passed, British troops had landed. Within a few weeks P.P.P. leaders were being carted to jail.

But check on what happened in British Guiana on 13th September this year. A Bill was introduced by a British Government official, not an elected Minister. It would permit the Governor to seize, ban or destroy anything published by anybody at any time if even the publication had never existed before.

For this beautiful Bill to be passed quickly, the Governor asked that Standing Orders be suspended. And the Speaker agreed. And the Bill was passed. All in one lovely evening. And no warships came.

A People' Programme for Jamaica

IN the last two months, two programmes have been presented to the Jamaican people.

One is put out by the newly founded People's Freedom Movement, while the other comes from the Manley-led People's National Party.

Arising out of the broad dissatisfaction of many with the existing political parties and programmes, the People's Freedom Movement initiated a Conference in Kingston where 250 delegates adopted a programme covering all the main points for winning a better life.

SOUND MANDATE

It was put forward, in the terms of the resolution, as "the programme which a true representative of the people, when elected, should press for in the House of Representatives, and that all candidates for election should be tested as to whether or not they will pledge themselves to fight for the real needs of the people.

Demanding an end to imperialist rule, the programme goes on to give detailed constructive proposals.

On LABOUR, the government is called upon to either find work for the 200,000 unemployed, or pay not less than £1 a week each. The demand is made for democratic trade unions and government recognition of unions of the workers' own choice.

Equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex, age or nationality; holidays with pay; a pension for every worker equal to at least half his wages, payable at the age of 55 years; these are just some of the demands.

For WOMEN, maternity leave with full pay for at least 14 weeks and prohibition of dismissal of pregnant women or nursing mothers, are called for.

YOUNG WORKERS would have a systematic apprentice scheme, and decent wages for apprentices.

For SMALL and MIDDLE FARMERS: guaranteed markets and good prices, loans at low rates, agricultural machinery stations, co-operative facilities for buying implements, suckers, etc.; compulsory acquisition of unused land for settlement.

On COST OF LIVING, the programme demands lowering the price of essential goods by cutting wholesalers' profits and lowering import duties; subsidies of essential foodstuffs, where necessary, lowering of indirect taxes and taxing the rich more.

BREAK SHACKLES

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT is to be based on taking over the foreign-owned undertakings which strangle Jamaica, running them for the benefit of Jamaicans, and encouraging local industry.

The need for HOUSING and EDUCATION is put.

In conclusion, FEDERATION is supported as a means of strengthening Jamaica's development and trading position—a federation in which each unit has control of its internal affairs, not the British Government's plan which is "half slave, half free."

Compared with this policy for really ending the people's misery, the programme of Manley's P.N.P. rings hollow.

VAGUE PLATITUDES

Under the heading "Labour Programme"—it appears next to the last item on the programme—the P.N.P. begins by trotting out the good old platitudes "Labour must play its full part in the economic march forward to better days". "Miserable conditions will have to be removed". "More satisfactory division of the National Income." And so on and so on.

It demands the abolition of child labour, a 45-hour week, annual leave with pay.

Unemployment gets the largest paragraph and the vaguest treatment. Encouragement of foreign and local capital is envisaged as the main correction though, and this is a gem, "workers may have in particular cases to accept wages that can only be justified on the footing that an industry is being built up and has yet to prove it can succeed."

GOOD FAITH

Effective Industrial Relations machinery must be set up for dispute, a fair Labour Code implemented. Unemployment assistance must be "favourably" considered with a scheme for providing systematic assistance "in cases of hardship among the unemployed".

The subject of "Industrial Development" occupies first place in the announcement and gets thorough treatment. The P.N.P. pledges fullest support for capital attraction schemes and "guarantees to maintain the utmost good faith in our relations with foreign investors."

And for the nearest to even a pseudo-Socialist policy there is this bit on power: "We will insist on the fullest development of our power resources which can only remain in private ownership provided the needs of Industry and Agriculture and Consumer demand are met. An end must be put to the out of date 40 cycle system of power."

SOLIDARITY WITH DOCKERS

FOR 28 days the port workers of Britain have been on strike, in the biggest stoppage in British labour history since the General Strike of 1926. This militant action by the dockers in defence of their elementary rights has ended in victory for them. Their strike was no picnic as some tend to think, but involved severe sacrifice by the men, their wives and children.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) was privileged to make a contribution of £2 to the strike fund, and in this small way to show the solidarity of West Indian workers with their British comrades.

Coloured Busmen Successful

IT is now about six months that 200 coloured conductors and conductresses have been working on Birmingham's buses. They have proved a success, playing in the football and cricket teams, taking part in the social functions.

Union officials — it's Deakin's Transport and General Workers' Union — report themselves "agreeably surprised", says the "Birmingham Post". Proposals to hire coloured people to supplement the greatly under-staffed bus service had led, last May, to hot debates.

Yet the shortage still remains, in the Midlands as well as in London. Have they ever heard about decent wages?

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Reconsider, British Honduras!

ACCORDING to our reports from Jamaica the Hon. Leigh Richardson, head of the elected members of the British Honduras Legislature and leaders of the People's United Party, has declared that British Honduras cannot "now think of Federation".

Reasons he advanced in an interview with a Jamaican newspaper were the present socio-economic situation in British Honduras, the nature of the proposed Federal Constitution and the inadvisability of immigration.

It will be remembered that the P.U.P. was swept to victory in April this year, despite the slanders of the press which alleged Communist control despite the fruitless probe of a British Government Commission which had to give up trying to prove that the P.U.P. was receiving Moscow gold via Guatemala City.

To claim that the Federal Constitution is no good would be stating the obvious. This proposed constitution is a bad joke. But the principle of federation of all the West Indian people is a necessary political fact and we need to hear that fact shouted by W.I. people's leaders.

All suffer

To claim that British Honduras socio-economic problems are a deterrent means nothing. All the West Indian people suffer from the same problems that result from colonialism and a one-crop economy. Similar problems bind us together, strengthen our arms and faith.

Lastly to make a stand against West Indian immigration rings very sour in the ears of the young progressive West Indian. It would have gone down very badly indeed here in London where we have learnt that we are not Antiguans, Barbadians and Jamaicans, but all West Indians.

But the general cry against federation, against immigration and shouts for the right to "a continental destiny" has been heard before—in British Guiana.

It was equally invalid then and the way in which it died away in the great roar of the P.P.P. victory to reappear weekly only after the overthrow of the elected government proves this: No West Indian working class movement is sincerely leading unless it stands for all West Indians—TOGETHER.

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

JUST over a year ago the Editorial Board kindly offered me this Corner; for eleven issues it has persisted. Do you think it has been of any use?

It has certainly served one purpose, a lot of people have learnt something of the day to day work that the C.L.C. (London) carry out. The weight of correspondence has been illustrated and when the picture is complete there is the basis for our claim to express the real, sincere political expression in the British occupied territories in the Caribbean.

We are proud of the limited assistance we have been able to give to every single struggle that we knew of in any one territory.

Federation

Now here's a word that has been hackneyed. Remember a feature article that I wrote in the April '53 issue, outlining the real history of Federation? Anyway, it's coming now and the Imperialists are selling it as their product—but what else could you expect from a bunch of crooked thugs? true, it's their brand, but it's our patent! Sticking my neck right out, I'll tell you that they are planning the show for April 1956.

FACT 1: A chappie from Barbados has been appointed as West Indian Trade Commissioner in London last June. His terms of reference are obviously a mystery, as there is no organisation outside the Caribbean Labour Congress that represents the interests of the whole Caribbean. As far as I know our executive in the West Indies have had nothing to do with this.

FACT 2: "Negotiations have been completed for an inter-island shipping service in the Caribbean, for which there has been agitation in the British West Indies ever since the two Canadian vessels, the 'Lady Nelson' and the 'Lady Rodney' were withdrawn from service in 1952.

"It is hoped to begin the new service from Trinidad next January with the steamer 'West Indian' (3,500 tons gross) which will carry passengers and cargo and will be equipped with refrigeration apparatus."

Subsequent news has come in that the Guiana "Government" will contribute 4,800 W.I. dollars to the financing of this vessel, which is another omen as to who is organising this scheme.

It is interesting to note that the owners are going to operate under the name of West Indies Navigation Company, Ltd., allegedly registered in Trinidad and the major shareholders are:

(a) British Imperialism (Colonial Development Corporation).
(b) Jardine Matheson and Co., Ltd.
(c) Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

New suckers

What a crew! Besides our age old enemy, two more throw-outs from the Far East are in search of new suckers; only a week before the Chinese People's Government has to take over the remains of Jardine Matheson, a name that stinks the length of the China/South East Asia coast. As for the other, who has not heard of the triumphal entry the great Indo-Chinese leader made to Hanoi as the last leaden steps of French Imperialism crawled away discredited.

FACT 3: "At the annual British Caribbean Currency Conference held in Trinidad on 28th June, Jamaica—the only British West Indian Colony not in the Caribbean currency system since its introduction early in 1950 was accepted as a participating territory."

These three facts stand out. Now chameleon Foote, His Excellency the Governor, Captain-General in Chief and heaven knows how many more titles, lets another puss out of the bag in Washington, U.S.A. He reckons that West Indian Federation plans will come to fruition in the next few years. Incidentally, if anyone asks, why 'chameleon'? — recall Foote's repeated denials in London supported by Government that they have not been planning legislation to curb migration against his implied threat as to what might be necessary if the big outflow continues.

Perhaps the terror of mere shadows of the Yankee eagle's clutching claw, would turn braver men to worse abstractions!

REPORTED: Ex Committee Member: 'Why do your minutes take hours to read?!'

Colour Bar

BOOK WORLD

Published by Routledge & Kegan Paul, 12/6

MR. CONSTANTINE has written an interesting book which gives a wide if not exhaustive survey of the question he raises in his title. The style is easy and the reader is often laughing. But one is left wondering whether somehow Mr. Constantine has not confused the symptom with the disease.

Colour bar, segregation of social groups and similar injustices are as much part of empire as are the plumes and spurs of a colonial Governor on a Queen's birthday parade. Without this self-inflation a master race would not long remain a master race.

Where, as in the Soviet Union, the working class has removed class domination, colour bars, 'racial' segregation and master races have also been removed. This Mr. Constantine acknowledges, but he is reluctant to accept the causes for it.

★ ★

If he does not rail against communism, he does not approve of it. Why, he does not make clear. But the reader gathers that he does not believe in violence (he can equate, for instance, the 'violence' of Mau Mau with the violence of the Kenya Government against Africans in that country), that he thinks Christian love the answer to all problems, that somehow he is bogged down in West Indian poor great ideas.

This comes out in his reaction to the recent influx of West Indian immigration to Britain whose 'respectable coloured residents' may, he fears, lose credit because 'ignorant boys steal rides on banana boats and then sometimes become hangers-on at race tracks and round the fringe of illegality'.

Mr. Constantine knows that this is not the whole of the problem. He tells us too much of his own experience in hotels, trains, on the cricket ground and elsewhere not to realise that it is not a question of 'the higher a monkey goes the more he shows his tail', but that for many people in bourgeois society all outside their class are monkeys.

I like to think that he is too intelligent to imagine that a few lunch engagements with Royalty or an Open Letter from Christian Bishops can set right this sorry business of imperialism which is the source of all colour bars.

Mr. Constantine tells us that his father taught him to field so well that his brother and he could throw plates and knives for each other to catch. He tells us, too, that he wants to help end the state of things he describes in his book.

In this game of Imperialism versus the Rest, we need all the talented players we can find. We are sure that Mr. Constantine is with the Rest. We hope that he studies the playing of this game as thoroughly as his father made him study cricket, and that he always remembers that the other side is much more likely to throw him a hand-grenade than a plate or an orange to catch.

Peter Blackman

Mr. Learie Constantine, noted West Indian cricketer and author of *Colour Bar*, reviewed above, has recently qualified as a barrister. He is leaving shortly for the West Indies.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of .....s. .....d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

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The Peoples Will End Colonial Slavery

FOR us, colonial peoples, the world is divided into two hostile camps—the camp of free and independent nations, sovereign nations on the one hand, and the camp of subject peoples, countries governed by other countries, on the other. In the camp of independent nations are numbered the Soviet Union, China, the People's Democracies of Europe, which exist as independent nations, holding no colonies in subjection.

Also in the camp of sovereign nations are the nations which hold other nations in subjection—Great Britain, France, Holland and the U.S.A., capitalist countries

Sydney King—popular Guiana leader, former Minister in P.P.P. Government

which have long become dominated by their own monopolies and which have long thrived on the policy of exploiting colonies and semi-colonies.

Russia, too, before 1917, was a vile exploiter of "backward" nations. However, the October Socialist Revolution of 1917 put an end to colonialism in the Russian Empire, transforming the former Russian Empire into a union of free and equal nations, with the right to break away from the union at any time. This was the first blow to colonialism of the modern type.

Before 1917, mankind was afforded a great example of how to end the subjection of one country by another. The majority of the capitalists of the thirteen North American British colonies, themselves descendants of the British people, arm in arm with the mass of the American people, fought a bloody war of liberation against British domination, expelled the British and established the United States of America, which developed however under capitalist leadership along imperialist lines.

Many uprisings

Beginning in the last quarter of the eighteenth century (1775) and continuing until about 1837, the Americas were swept by national liberation movements. Following the revolt of the American colonies came the slave revolution in Haiti against France (1790-1803). Then came the anti-colonial revolution throughout the Spanish mainland colonies from Mexico to Argentina from 1809 to 1825. Brazil, the Portugese colony, established its independence in 1822. Canada exploded in 1837 and finally got rid of British troops in 1867.

All this shows that in those times as well there could be no "co-operation" between the colonial powers and the subject peoples.

Today the subject peoples in the colonial and half-colonial countries under Britain, France and Holland are again clinched in combat with the giant of colonialism. This time we are inspired by the examples of China, the leading power of Asia which only a short while ago was under foreign rule. Inspired by China, the Indian peoples and other nations of Asia, Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan, are today strengthening and consolidating their recently won independence.

The Viet Namese people of Indo-China under Ho-Chi-Minh are winning victory after victory against the "dirty" French oppressors, who formerly ruled them. The French and British colony keepers are today supported by the powerful U.S.A., financially and morally —the same U.S.A. whose constitution proclaims liberty for all peoples. The Vietnamese are supported by the powerful French working class and all honest people throughout the world.

By SYDNEY KING

This confirms the teaching of V. I. Lenin, that the national liberation movements of the colonies will enjoy greater success when they are supported by the workers in the ruling country. The workers in the ruling country are oppressed by the same class which dominates the colonies. We have faith that the British working class, also, as the general crisis against the rearmament programme and the atom bomb will, as a whole rise to their historic mission of opposing colonial slavery, arm in arm with the revolutionary masses in the colonies.

W. Indies cheered

The wars in Malaya and Kenya, the events in Buganda, Guiana, St. Vincent, Jamaica and Trinidad, have already aroused the indignation of the British Labour Party members, in addition to the Communists. the freedom-loving clergymen and the Peace partisans.

The entire West Indies has been cheered by the determined anti-British stand of the people of Honduras who recently registered their support for the People's United Party, in the face of Government intimidation.

All Africa, from French North to British South, is on fire with the necessity of liberation. From Tunisia to Morocco, from Kenya to the Gold Coast, the African people are determinedly opposing further enslavement by the colonisers and are demanding independence and the right to their own homeland. British Guiana and British Honduras have shown that the entire populations in effect oppose foreign rule.

In every single West Indian territory forces are at work for the quick liberation of our region from the Imperialist grasp. The trade unions are playing, and must continue to play, a great and increasingly important part in this patriotic struggle by uniting the workers in their fight for better wages and working conditions, for social security.

The peoples of the West Indies and of all colonies, by their unceasing action, co-operation, opposition and advance will fulfil their historic calling, they will put an end to colonial slavery and establish the sacred right of the people to rule themselves. Rev. Dr. James Endicott:

"Let us stop talking about backward people. The first cure for their 'backwardness' is for us to get off their backs."

GREETINGS TO 'Freedom'

A NEW paper has made its appearance in the West Indian progressive political scene—this time in Jamaica.

It is called "FREEDOM" and is the official organ of the People's Freedom Movement, whose programme is described elsewhere in this issue. Editor Rolly Sims was a most active member of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) while in London.

At a time when the Jamaican Labour movement is split into four and confusion is rife, "FREEDOM" is beginning to fill a great need for a paper to put the issues clearly before the people in the interest of the people — the unemployed, workers, farmers and middle classes.

Big business dominates the press, and so we all welcome "FREEDOM" and hope that before long it too, like "Thunder" of Guiana, will win the biggest support from the people.

Good luck and all success to all comrades associated in its production and sale.

Bright Business *. . . for some*

BY OUR FINANCIAL WIZARD

ON the St. Madeline Sugar Estates with their associated factory, business is really bright. Profits rose sharply to £154, 292 in contrast to a mere £89,662 last year.

Accounts are made up to June 30th annually and this news will keep the Stock Exchange prices on even keel—they could even rise. What does this indicate?

Capitalist investors, that is people with plenty of money, more than they can usefully use, will ogle greedily and then pour in more cash into the hands of a few over-dressed spivs who loiter in narrow Throgmorton Street in London City. These vultures await the news of Trinidad's workers NOT demanding more wages and the obvious increased profits that result.

This company, St. Madeline Sugar, even found that £19,500 previously put aside for taxation will not be required and therefore could pocket it!

The dividend is going up to 9%, that is an increase of £3 for every £100 invested in one year; last year they pinched £6 for every £100—so virtually a wage increase of 50% ! ! !

Cleverest of all, the Directors have decided to give £50,000 to their shareholders which have accrued over some years. The style is this: put aside a sum of money each year and do not distribute it to shareholders (or workers, of course) so avoid taxation, then next year, or anyway later, GIVE it to the shareholders as a sort of bonus which is now NOT subject to taxation.

What a business!

Trinidad Petroleum Development

The Directors of this outfit, who are hardly distinguishable from British Controlled Oilfields, are grinning all over and gleefully rubbing their hands, boasting that for the year ending on July 31st, they sold 3,284,005 barrels of crude oil. This was less than last year by 155,190 BUT they get £83,454 more than last year.

Result: by Tuesday, October 19th, Stock Exchange prices had risen another 3d. each to 28/3 for an original FIVE SHILLING share.

Mr. J. Mytton, Secretary of T.P.D. and Managing Director of B.C.O. is really happy in company with a former Jamaica Governor, Sir John Huggins, a co-Director. NETT profits have risen to £773,411, an increase of £56,896 over 1952/53 so giving the lazy louts in London a dividend of 20%—whow!

Don't be at all confused with these figures. Study everyone carefully, ponder over the volume of production coming from ONLY one of the SEVEN fangs from Britain that suck oil from Trinidad. Think over the values being lightly toyed with, don't forget to multiply by FIVE in order to understand the sums in Caribbean dollars; then wipe away the tears and resolve that this wealth, too, MUST remain West Indian.

Caroni

(controlled by Tate and Lyle)

As the news of sugar production restrictions sink home, the London sugar barons received a 12½% dividend on their Stock Holdings for the year ending June 30th, 1954.

Profits spiral once more to record heights of £201,009 that is nearly half a million dollars more than last year, and brothers, those honey-dew dollars roll in AFTER their directors have put aside £291,156 for taxation.

£50,000 more have been hidden away to a General Reserve—now if there is any doubt as to what this means, spare a moment . . .

Mr. G. V. Tate, successor to Lord Lyle announced simultaneously that he was giving to all the loyal shareholders, one NEW fully paid Ordinary Share of 2/- to every original Stockholder who already held a single Stock Unit of 8/-. Multiply this to the thousands and millions that Tate's deal in, and you see where the "Reserves" go each year and TAX-FREE, too!

C. L. C. (L. B.)

3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

The ELEPHANT and *The Man*

A Fable by Jomo Kenyatta

THE president of the African Union in Kenya, one of the leaders of the national movement, Jomo Kenyatta, studied in England, travelled in France and Germany and lived 17 years in Europe. He was dragged before the court by British colonial authorities and imprisoned. In this fable he gives an excellent description of relations between colonial people and their oppressors.

ONCE upon a time an elephant made friends with a man. One day a violent thunderstorm started. The elephant went to his friend who owned a small hut at the fringe of a wood and said to him: "My dear, good man, please allow me to put my trunk into your hut, to protect it from this violent downpour."

When the man saw the situation of the elephant, he said: "My dear elephant, my hut is small, but there is space in it for me and your trunk too. But please put your trunk in very carefully!"

The elephant thanked his friend and said: "You have done me good, and some day I will return this goodness."

But what happened? When the elephant put his trunk into the hut, it was slowly followed by his head and finally he threw the man out into the rain and said: "My dear good friend, your skin is thicker than mine, and as there is not enough space for both of us, you can very well stand in the rain while I protect my delicate skin from the hail-storm."

When the man saw what his friend had done to him, he muttered. The animals from the nearby forest heard him and came to see what had happened. They all stood in a circle and listened to the quarrel between the man and his friend, the elephant. In this upheaval, the lion came along and roared: "Don't you all know that I am the king of the jungle? How dare you disturb the peace of my empire?"

★

When the elephant, one of the high dignitaries of the jungle, heard this, he answered in a calming voice: "Your Majesty, I only had a small discussion with my friend here about the possession of this little hut in which I live." The lion who wanted peace and quiet in his kingdom, answered in a noble voice: "I order my ministers to set up a commission of enquiry which will examine this affair and give a full account of it." Then he turned to the man and said: "You did well in making friendship with my people, especially with the elephant, who is one of my ministers of state. Don't scold anymore, because this hut is not lost to you. Wait for the meeting of the commission of my kingdom, and you will have the chance to state your case. I am sure you will be satisfied with the decision of the commission."

The man was only too happy about the gracious words of the king of the jungle and waited for the enquiry, in the belief that his hut would be returned to him.

The elephant obeyed his master and together with the other ministers formed a commission.

The following people were appointed to sit on the commission: Mr. Rhinoceros, Mr. Buffalo, Mr. Alligator, his honour Mr. Fox as chairman and Mr. Leopard as secretary. When the man saw the list of persons, he protested and asked whether it was not necessary to accept in this commission some members from his side. But he was told that this was impossible, because there was nobody from his side educated enough to understand the complicated laws of the jungle. Besides, there was nothing to be afraid of, because the members of the commission were all very well-known for their impartiality and justice.

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Because they were masters, ordered by God to take care of the interests of the races who are less well equipped with teeth and claws, he could be sure that they would examine the affair carefully and impartially.

The elephant was called first. He approached with a haughty face, he had cleaned his tusks on a small tree given to him by Mrs. Elephant, and he said in a confident voice: "Gentlemen of the jungle, I don't see any necessity to waste your time in telling you a story which, I think, is well-known to all of you. I considered it always my duty to take care of the interests of my friends and that obviously brought about a misunderstanding between me and my friend here.

"He asked me to protect his hut from being carried away by the storm. As the storm had entered the hut because of an unoccupied room there, I considered it in the interest of my friend, to turn this disused room to economic use, by occupying it myself, a duty which each of you under the same circumstances would have gladly fulfilled."

After the commission had heard Mr. Elephant's final report, Mr. Hyena and other influential people were called and all of them confirmed what Mr. Elephant had said. Then they called the man who now started to give his account of the quarrel. But the commission interrupted abruptly and said: "Dear man, limit yourself to the essential points. We have heard the state of affairs already from several impartial sources. All we want to hear from you is whether the disused room in your hut had been occupied by somebody before the elephant occupied it?"

The man started: "No, but" —then the commission declared it had heard enough statements from both sides and retired for consultation. After an excellent meal at the expense of Mr. Elephant, they declared sentence, called the man and explained to him the following.

★

"According to our opinion, this quarrel arose from a regrettable misunderstanding, the origin of which can be found in the backwardness of your ideas. We believe that Mr. Elephant fulfilled a holy duty, by taking care of your interests. It is clear that it is only for your own good that this room can be used as economically as possible, as you yourself do not yet reach the necessary circumference to fill it, we consider a compromise necessary to satisfy both sides.

"Mr. Elephant will occupy your hut, but we shall give you a permit to select a place where you can build a new hut for yourself, a hut more adequate to your needs, and we shall give you protection."

Living Costs ZOOM !

IN August the Jamaica cost of living index rose by 4.7 points over July. This was the overall figure, but for food the index jumped by 7.9 points. It must be remembered that this is for one month only. The rise for clothing was 5.1 points while other items went up by 3.2 points.

Jamaica's unemployed number 200,000, with meagre wages for those at work.

. . . Did anyone mention a pay rise?

Liberia President Visiting Jamaica

PRESIDENT Tubman of American controlled Liberia is expected to visit Jamaica in November at the invitation of the Queen of Britain. He will first be touring the United States and Haiti.

In the U.S.A. he is the guest of Eisenhower, and in Jamaica his host is Governor Sir Hugh Foot.

Colonial Office must act

A SUCCESSFUL conference on racial discrimination called by the Caribbean Labour Congress was held on Saturday, 9th October, 1954, at Holborn Hall, London.

The conference coincided with the first anniversary of the undemocratic removal of the elected P.P.P. government of British Guiana by the Tory government.

Referring to this, Conference Chairman, Ranji Chandisingh said: "This anniversary pays tribute to the determination of the peoples, not only of the West Indies, but throughout the colonial empires, in the gigantic struggle for national liberation."

Delegates were unanimous in condemning racial discrimination. It sought to divide and use the workers against each other. Only one class benefitted — the capitalist, and delegates promised to use their organisations in the fight to rid Britain of this evil.

It was decided to send a report of the findings of the conference to the Colonial Office. Included is a request for the Colonial Office to sponsor a conference on racial discrimination with delegates representing colonial organisations, and British workers' organisations attending.

Speakers included Mr. J. P. Compton, President of the League of Coloured Peoples, C. Clancey, G. Pefkos, David Larder and Billy Strachan.

The conference was attended by delegates from the League of Coloured Peoples, the Christian Church Council, West Indian Students' Union, Irish Democrat, V.E.M.A. (Cypriot Newspaper) and the trade unions.

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SOVIET ANNIVERSARY

From the depths to prosperity

By E. Cris LeMaitre

THIS month the Soviet Union celebrates the 37th anniversary of the Socialist Revolution. And once more the eyes of the world are focussed on her. What they see will fill some with envy, and others with affection and inspiration.

For from the ashes of Czarist imperialism has arisen the mightiest nation in the world. A nation whose might is not gauged in the strength, numerical or effective, of her army, navy, or air force. But in the ability to mould its people—all of them—into a gigantic multi-national nation enjoying prosperity and progress.

And because of this, evil men in capitalist countries envy her. Because of her successes, power-mad multi-millionaires in America plot against her, appropriate 200 million dollars for sabotage and espionage against her and her socialist allies.

But their crude machinations must fail.

No discrimination

With all these acts of provocation the Soviet Union maintains her stand for peace. She continues improving the economic, social, educational and cultural standards of her people. Her heterogenous people suffer no form of discrimination—no superiority, no inferiority—and live as one.

In this, one of her greatest achievements, the colonial people's admire her. Rebelling against exploitation and frustration, the colonial people draw inspiration from the Russian Revolution.

Janet in prison from page 1

population and respected by the world as people for whom no sacrifice is too great in this struggle for complete independence.

So today, let us take our thoughts to comrade Jagan, a woman who has proved the equality of her sex with men. A woman who is truly a leader, a woman who must be an example for every other of her sex to emulate.

We salute you comrade Janet Jagan and say that your unlimited sacrifices will not be in vain. The Party stands firm and together we go forward to inevitable victory. May you continue to inspire us in the future as you have done in the past.

And may your future birthdays be spent in a country which has benefited from the one you spent in an imperialist prison.

AT HOME AND ABROAD

AS a special feature to celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of our paper, we are offering to send the next three issues of "Caribbean News" absolutely FREE to anyone, anywhere. All the reader has to do is to fill in the name and address of a friend whom he or she would like introduced to "Caribbean News", and that person will automatically receive by post the next THREE issues without cost or obligation.

Here is the form — send it off now to "Caribbean News", 3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1.

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What future for West Indies?

A fortnightly series of classes on the West Indies has started at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1. They will continue on November 12th, 26th, and Friday, December 10th.

Subjects will include life in the West Indies, economic, cultural, political, and the concluding class on December 10th will be "What future for the West Indies".

All are invited to attend.

Left-wing rise in Barbados

IN OUR little island within a short period 1,200 signatures were collected by the Christian Socialist Party calling for the release of Cheddi Jagan up to the time when it was learned that he had been released.

The C.S.P. has also made protests over the American H-bomb tests in the Pacific and denial of the Party's use of Queen's Park to hold its meetings.

Another organisation—the Caribbean People's Alliance—caters for the island's youth, and both these bodies are gaining favour with the masses and seeking to keep the people in contact with all democratic movements overseas.

The newspapers make continued attacks against these two organisations and are constantly referring to "Caribbean News".

BACKGROUND: This little island of ours is only 21 miles long and 14 miles across with a population of 220,000, and a density of 1,260 per square mile.

It is the most conservative of the West Indian islands and is sometimes called Little England.

Here we have the arch-imperialist stooge of the West Indies—Grantley Adams. He grabbed control of the Barbados Labour Party after attacking the progressive movement started by Dr. Duncan O'Neale.

For years Adams was a foremost enemy of the working class movement, but in 1937 when there was a little disturbance here, Adams, opportunist as he is, proclaimed that he was like Saul turned to Paul, and in so doing grabbed control of the Workers' Union and Labour Party. Since then he has continued to sell out the working class movement and to betray their national aspirations.

But all bad things must come to an end, and since the visit paid to this island by Jagan, Hart, etc., left-wing opinion has begun to gain the ascendency.

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Do it the Lambeth way

CROWNING the applause to a short impassionate speech, Lt.-Col. Marcus Lipton, Member of Parliament for Lambeth (South), came across and with a warm handshake congratulated the Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

Some six or seven score people, 70% West Indians, had gathered at the Lambeth Town Hall on the invitation of the Civic Secretary to discuss policy and aims towards improved race relations. Speaker after speaker thanked the Mayor, Major Herbert White, the chairman for the evening, for the wonderful opportunities his Borough was exploring to the benefit of both English and West Indian residents.

After two interesting, if imperfect film shows, the subject under discussion was opened to the floor. There were many critics from the West Indies, overflowing with a sort of misguided pride. The story of the rotten social and economic conditions naturally was enough to make one ashamed, but Billy Strachan's clear statement on the history and root causes of the existing picture drew worthy applause.

A British resident, Mr. Idris Cox, put forward suggestions for integration of the coloured people in the every-day social life, including cricket matches, and again drew a display of appreciation that was an indication of the feelings of everyone present.

A CHALLENGE TO BUSTAMANTE

THE newly formed People's Freedom Movement of Jamaica has issued the following statement:

In a strongly-worded statement, on September 6th, reported in the "Daily Gleaner" on the following day, Mr. Bustamante castigated:

1. The refusal of the Colonial Office to grant wider Ministerial powers to the elected ministers; and
2. The advertisement for Police Officers in Britain without the knowledge of the Executive Council.

In his statement, Mr. Bustamante said: "It is clear that they are mealy-mouthed when they speak about Self-Government and you must fight them and go to prison if you wish to bring freedom and self-respect to your own country."

The phrase "It is clear" is very important. Apparently until now it was not clear to Mr. Bustamante that the only way to gain our freedom is as he puts it "to fight them and go to prison."

If by using the phrase "It is clear" Mr .Bustamante means he is discarding his policy of supporting the colonial masters and is ready to adopt a policy of fighting for Jamaica's freedom against the wholesale robbery of our country by British and American imperialism, then he can look forward to the support of a united nation in a crusade for our freedom.

Call it off

We believe that Britain is here in Jamaica for financial gain and therefore will not lightly give up her so-called 'Divine Right' to rule and exploit us, and that we must be prepared to fight for our freedom.

Mr. Bustamante had therefore not said anything that is fundamentally new. His statement is important in that it comes from one who has been almost fawning in his desire to co-operate with British Imperialism and readily agreed to Sir Hugh Foot's proposals for constitutional reform which did not represent any appreciable advance.

If Mr. Bustamante's statement was meant to be taken seriously and is not just a cheap political manoeuvre then he can prove that he is serious by withdrawing his support from the plans now being made to celebrate 300 years of British rule. How can a "champion" of freedom celebrate 300 years of oppression.

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